

# **EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance**

## ***Hudson County, NJ***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

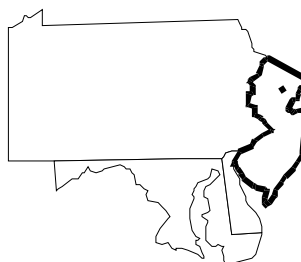
**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND**

EPA awarded Hudson County, New Jersey supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Hudson County has a population of 550,789 and is situated on the Hudson River's west bank, opposite New York City. Hudson County is a densely populated area with sensitive wetlands in its northern and western portions. As the national economy has shifted away from manufacturing, the relocation and downsizing of many Hudson County manufacturing companies has resulted in a 47 percent decrease in jobs. This trend also has resulted in a proliferation of abandoned buildings that are obsolete for current manufacturing, warehousing, or office operations. There are almost 650 sites with known contamination in the County, an average of 14 sites per square mile.

Due to space constraints and high population density, (e.g., approximately 12,000 people per square mile), there is a lack of green space in the County and the only economic expansion and revitalization option available to the county is the redevelopment of brownfields. Through the initial Pilot grant, Hudson

### **PILOT SNAPSHOT**



*Hudson County, New Jersey*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 2000

**Amount:** \$150,000  
**Greenspace:** \$50,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets brownfields along the 18-mile Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.

#### **Contacts:**

Division of Housing and  
Community Development  
(201) 795-6186

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 2  
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

County is assisting the municipalities of Harrison, Hoboken, Kearny, and North Bergen to establish brownfields redevelopment programs. These municipalities contain approximately one-third of the County's contaminated sites. Through supplemental assistance, the County will expand its brownfields redevelopment support to include the City of Bayonne and the towns of Guttenberg, Weehawken, and West New York. The supplemental assistance will focus on the development of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, an 18-mile-long pedestrian corridor.

## **OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

Hudson County plans to use EPA Brownfield supplemental assistance Pilot to support the development of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. The half-complete walkway will provide recreational opportunities to county residents. With EPA assistance and actions taken by the Hudson County Brownfields Working Group, it is hoped that the project will be completed in five years, one-quarter the current project time to complete. The supplemental assistance Pilot will expedite assessment, acquisition, and construction phases of the project. The Pilot will also use the greenspace funding to support development of the Waterfront Walkway. Upon completion, the walkway will add 65-acres of greenspace to the community.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Identify brownfields along the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway;
- Conduct environmental assessments and develop cleanup plans for the selected sites; and
- Conduct community involvement activities related to the selected brownfields sites.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*